



June 23, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metro Freeway Service Patrol to Expand Midday, Weekend Service July 1

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority today approved a \$3.5 million expansion of the Metro Freeway Service Patrol, whose fleet of tow and service trucks relieves freeway congestion by assisting stranded motorists on L.A. County's freeway network. The expansion will provide midday and weekend service to freeway segments (beats) that currently do not have this service.

"The Metro Freeway Service Patrol has aided nearly 4 million stranded motorists since the program's inception in 1991," said Frank Roberts, MTA Board Chair. "MFSP's quick response has provided peace of mind to these motorists free of charge, and relief to our traffic clogged freeways."

The intent of the service expansion is to provide a consistent level of service on all beats to address the increasing traffic congestion across the L.A. County freeway network. The increase can be attributed to several factors, including population expansion, growth of commuting distances and increased goods movement.

As a result of today's action, the number of trucks in operation during middays and weekends will be increased from the current 33-midday and 28-weekend to 44-midday and 42-weekend. MFSP will continue peak hour service at 147 tow and service trucks. The hours of service will be 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends.

This increase in deployment represents Phase I of a two-phase service expansion. Phase II would initiate new service in the remaining areas of L.A. County that currently do not have MFSP service (i.e., I-5 in Santa Clarita and Route 210 from Pasadena to San Fernando).

Metro Freeway Service Patrol serves more than 400 miles of Los Angeles County freeways. The program is jointly managed by Metro, CHP and Caltrans and is funded by state highway funds and Proposition C, the half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 1990.

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